From the creator of Model

Arcana Vol. 1
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A TOKYOPOP Manga

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ISBN 1-59532-481-X

First TOKYOPOP printing: June 2005
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
Printed in the USA

SHALL WE GO?
WE HAVE TO GET THERE BEFORE DARK.
커커
INEZ, YOU KNOW ZODE DOESN'T LIKE BOWS.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY! WHY DOESN'T HE LIKE IT WHEN HE LOOKS SO CUTE THIS WAY?
ZODE HAS ABSOLUTELY NO SENSE OF HUMOR. NONE!
I MEAN, ISN'T IT THE DUTY OF ALL PETS TO PLEASE THEIR MASTERS..?
컹컹컹
DID... DID YOU HEAR THAT?
WHAT HE JUST SAID?
허허
WELL, I CAN'T SAY ZODE'S WRONG.
GRAND-PA!

ZOPE! HEY, YOU! WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "I'M A DELINQUENT"?!
WHAT KIND OF DOG SAYS THINGS LIKE THAT ABOUT HIS MASTER HUH?
THE FIRST THING I M GONNA DO WHEN WE GET TO THE CITY IS SELL YOU!
YOU POOCH! POO YOU
HUH?!
WHAT IS IT, INEZ?
I DON'T KNOW
I FELT SOMETHING BRUSH AGAINST MY CHEEK
SOMETHING REALLY COLD

...THEN DISAPPEARED, JUST NOW...
SOMETHING CARESSED MY CHEEK..

IT FELT LIKE RAIN..
...ONLY SOFTER...
...AND COLD
YOU MUS KNOW
THIS SUBSTANCE FALLING FROM THE SKY...

IS THIS SNOW?
SNOW ?
YOU MEAN THIS IS SNOW?!
THE STUFF THAT'S SUPPOSED TO FALL ONLY ONCE EVERY HUNDRED YEARS?
WOW, THIS IS GREAT! FANTASTIC!!
뚜까 뚜까
IT FEELS LIKE SOMEONE'S SPRINKLING THE COLD SPRING WATER OF KARTH DOWN FROM THE SKY.
IT'S LIGHT AS A FEATHER..
WE'RE AT THE END OF ANOTHER CYCLE
IT'S COMING AROUND AGAIN

EPISODE 1
HUNDRED YEARS' SNOW

THAT WAS SNOW, NOT RAIN!
NO WAY!
YES, THE ELDERS CONFIRMED IT. IT'S THE SNOW THAT'S PREDICTED TO FALL ONLY ONCE A CENTURY!
DOES THAT MEAN... WINTER'S COMING?
WINTER'S SUPPOSED TO MAKE THE GROUND FREEZE AND KILL ALL THE CROPS! WHAT DO WE DO?
SHOULD WE OFFER UP A SACRIFICE TO THE GODS?!
EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT THE SNOW
I'M NOT SURPRISED THEY'VE NEVER SEEN SNOW BEFORE

BUT MORE THAN THE SNOW ITSELF THEY MUST BE AFRAID OF WHAT A SNOWY WINTER WILL MEAN
IT'S THE SEASON WHEN THIS COUNTRY'S STRENGTH WILL BE AT ITS MOST VULNERABLE
PANT
OH?
GRANDPA, WHAT ARE THEY? I'VE NEVER SEEN ANIMALS LIKE THEM BEFORE!
BAA BAA!
THEY LOOK LIKE GOATS, BUT THEY HAVE SUCH STRANGE FUR!

04
THEY'RE CALLED SHEEP
THEY'RE PROBABLY BEING SENT TO THE PALACE FROM THE NEIGHBORING COUNTRY
...IN PREPARATION FOR THE WINTER
EH?
Gasp!
YOU CAN USE THE WOOL FROM THESE ANIMALS TO MAKE WARM CLOTHES
THERE MUST BE A LAMBS' WOOL COAT IN OUR TRUNK SOMEWHERE, THOUGH IT MAY HAVE A HOLE OR TWO..
INEZ, YOU IMP!!

THIS IS AMAZING!! NOW THAT I LOOK AGAIN, THEY'RE NOTHING LIKE GOATS
THEY'RE MUCH CUTER!
HMM, I CAN'T REALLY HEAR WHAT THEY'RE SAYING FROM HERE
LET ME GET CLOSER TO THEM
덥
석
ZOPE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! YOU STAY HERE I'LL JUST BE A SECOND

HI, THERE! DON'T BE AFRAID
I WANT TO TALK TO YOU WILL YOU TALK TO ME?
FINE? GREAT, THANKS!
UH?
YOU GUYS TOO?
HA HA! SO ALL OF YOU WANT TO TALK TO ME?
JUST BEAR WITH ME, SINCE IT'S MY FIRST TIME SPEAKING YOUR LANGUAGE..
WELL, HERE WE GO I'LL TRY MY BEST..
MM
MMM
MM

I'm scared!
So scared
There's one here...
..who's different from us!
Different from us!
WHAT?!
He's different from us!!
THEY'RE ALL TREMBLING IN FEAR
THERE'S A FOREIGN CREATURE HERE
EVEN THOUGH IT LOOKS JUST LIKE THEM!

A DEMON?!
ZODE--!!

ZODE!
ZODE--!!

Get down.
HUH?!
UGH! A SAND STORM?!
NO! THAT SICKENING SMELL...

THEY SAY A DEMON'S BODY SPEWS A LETHAL POISON AS IT DISINTEGRATES
SO THIS MIST MUST BE THAT POISON...
I CAN'T BREATHE! I FEEL SO DRAINED
GRANDPA
ZODE--!

웅성
웅성
웅성
WHAT A RUCKUS
THE TOWN'S IN AN UPROAR BECAUSE A DEMON HAS APPEARED
DEMON?
THE PEOPLE HERE ARE TOTALLY IGNORANT ABOUT DEMONS
THE SUDDEN APPEARANCE OF ONE OF THE MONSTERS IS ENOUGH TO FRIGHTEN THEM OUT OF THEIR WITS
THE FRACTURE IT HAS CREATED IN THE PERFECT PEACE OF THIS PLACE
WON'T BE EASILY REPAIRED
WITH TIME
IT'LL JUST GET DEEPER AND DEEPER...

IS THAT THE ENTRANCE TO THE PALACE?
WHERE'S THE TEMPLE?
THE TEMPLE IS CONCEALED AT THE HIGHEST POINT IN THIS COUNTRY
THE EDIFICE AT THE TOP OF THAT MOUNTAIN
HIDES THE TRUE POWER THAT HOLDS THIS COUNTRY TOGETHER
SO--A SECRET TEMPLE
IT MUST BE HIDDEN UP THERE TOO.

LET'S HURRY
I WANT TO SEE IT WITH MY OWN EYES
THE APPEARANCE OF THE DEMONS MEANS THAT DEFENSES ARE ALREADY WEAKENING.
WHICH MUST MEAN THAT ITS POWER IS DWINDLING AWAY.

I CAN'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!

YOUR MAJESTY, MASTER KAAGER HAS BEEN HERE SINCE NOON
HE'S WAITING IN THE GREAT HALL
I'LL BE WITH HIM SHORTLY.
KAAGER HAS COME
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN ALL OUR TROUBLES ARE OVER
HE MAY BE TOO OLD TO BEAR THE BURDEN THIS TIME
I'LL SEE HIM AS I AM NOW
JUST AS THIS COUNTRY IS GETTING OLD
KAAGER, I HEAR YOU ENCOUNTERED SOME TROUBLE EN ROUTE.
I'M GLAD YOU'RE ALL RIGHT.
MY LORD.
FEAR HAS ALREADY MADE IT'S NEST IN THE PEOPLE'S HEARTS.
THANKS TO THE SNOWFALL AND THE DEMON THAT SNUCK IN HERE.

PEACE IS ONCE AGAIN IN JEOPARDY
WHO WILL BRING THE KEY TO VICTORY THIS TIME?
I WONDER FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART, KAAGER
WHAT WAS THAT NOISE?
THERE IT GOES AGAIN
IT'S COMING FROM OVER THERE..
WHO'S THERE?!

Not yet...
WHAT?!
You can't meet yet...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHO CAN'T I MEET?
Not yet...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

...WHO'S THERE? WHO'S HOLDING ME?
SO SOFT... SO WARM IT FEELS SO GOOD TO BE HELD
JUST LIKE WHEN I FALL ASLEEP LEANING AGAINST ZOPE...
Virgin

GO AWAY ZODE
I WANT TO SLEEP HEY, THAT TICKLES
ZODE?!
BAM
YOU'RE ALIVE!
I KNEW IT! I KNEW SOMETHING LIKE THAT DEMON COULDN'T HARM YOU!
ZODE, I LOVE YOU ♥
YOU LOVE ME TOO, RIGHT?
킹킹
WHAT? DO YOU HAVE TO NAG AT A TENDER MOMENT LIKE THIS?
HM
뿜
WHERE AM I?

WHAT IS THIS PLACE? EVERYTHING'S SO SHINY AND OPULENT
THE BED WAS AMAZINGLY SOFT, TOO
IT LOOKS LIKE AN IMPERIAL PALACE
I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING SINCE BREATHING IN THE DEMON'S POISON
I MUST HAVE BEEN UNCONSCIOUS ALL THIS TIME
FIRST OF ALL...
I NEED TO FIND GRANDPA
탁탁
끙
NOTHING YET, ZODE?
GRANDPA'S SCENT IS ABSOLUTELY UNIQUE, YOU KNOW THAT
WHY ARE YOU HAVING SUCH A DIFFICULT TIME?
컹
HURRAY! YOU'VE FOUND HIM
SNIFF
HUH? I RECOGNIZE THAT SCENT...

AT FIRST SIGHT, I KNEW

WHEN I SAW YOU SHATTER THE DEMON, ARMED WITH ONLY THAT BLUNT-LOOKING WEAPON

AND THEN THAT SINGLE COMMAND YOU SPOKE TO ME...

HIS MAJESTY, THE EMPEROR, WISHES TO SEE YOU
NOT A HUMAN LANGUAGE

파아
YIKES--WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
GET AWAY! DON'T TOUCH ME!!
I SAID, GET--
IF YOU DON'T CALM DOWN AND BEHAVE, I WON'T EITHER

THERE'S A PROPER PROTOCOL YOU NEED TO OBSERVE...
WHEN ENTERING HIS MAJESTY'S PRESENCE DIDN'T YOU KNOW THAT?
THIS OLD HAG HAS INCREDIBLE PHYSICAL STRENGTH!
WILL YOU TAKE YOUR CLOTHES OFF YOURSELF, OR...
...WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO SPEND MY ENERGY STRIPPING YOU?
HMPH! YOU THINK YOU CAN THREATEN ME...? I HATE BATHS!
IF YOU WANT ME TO BE A DOCILE LITTLE KITTEN, DON'T MAKE ME DO SOMETHING I DON'T LIKE!

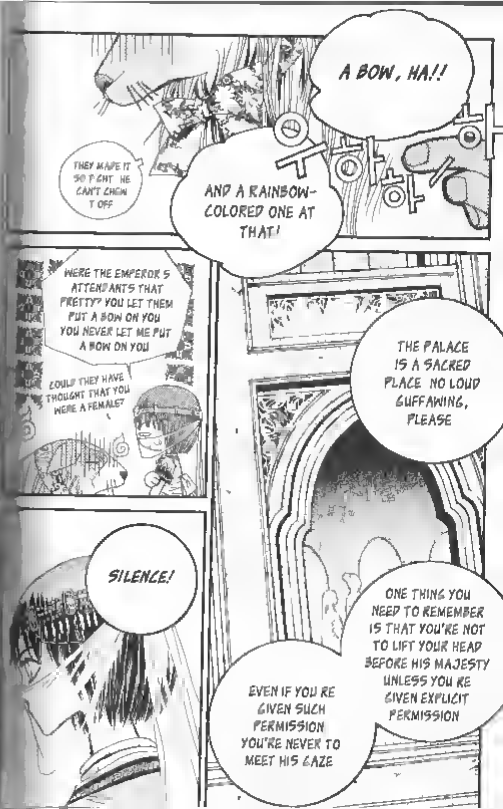
WHY? I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY DO I HAVE TO MEET THE EMPEROR?
THIS PLACE REALLY IS THE IMPERIAL PALACE
BUT WHY ME WHY?
WHY AM I HERE?!!
GRANDPA, I HATE YOU! HOW COULD YOU LEAVE ME HERE ALONE?!!
아~ 아~
C'MON JUST WASTE MY TIME
OH, MY GOODNESS, WHAT A LOVELY DOG ♡
LOOK HOW S AND FURRY H IS DON'T Y JUST WANT LIE DOWN NE TO HIM?
BUT SHOULDN'T WE WASH HIM AND GET HIM READY, TOO?
HE'S A HANDSOME DOG, BUT A SMELLY ONE
JUST LEAVE IT ALONE THERE WERE NO ORDERS REGARDING THE DOG
STILL I WISH WE COULD ♡
SEE! LOOK HOW SHINY HE IS ALREADY ♡
BE PATIENT, MY SWEET BABY, I'LL MAKE YOU LOOK SO NICE IN JUST A SECOND ♡
HE'S REALLY WELL-BEHAVED ♡
WOW, LOO HOW PLUM HIS LEGS ARE HE S SO CUTE! ♡

WHOA...
WHAT ARE YOU STARING AT?! HAVEN'T YOU SEEN A HUMAN BODY BEFORE?
CAN'T YOU SEE ALL THESE GOOSEBUMPS? I DON'T WANT TO CATCH A COLD
HURRY UP AND LET'S GET IT OVER WITH!
NICE FRAGRANCE, DON'T YOU THINK?
IT'S VIOLET
IT'S A SCENT THAT SUITS A DELICATE BODY LIKE YOURS
VIOLET IS NOT AS INTENSE AS ROSE, BUT ITS SUBTLE FRAGRANCE LASTS LONGER

BOTH FLOWERS SIGNIFY LOVE, BUT VIOLETS HAVE SOMETHING TRAGIC ABOUT THEM.
MAYBE BECAUSE OF ITS FRAGILE NATURE...
WHAT ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT?
JUST A VIOLET
A GIRL?
DID I HEAR YOU CORRECTLY?
TELL ME, KAAGER, WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?
ARE WE TO ENTRUST THE FATE OF THIS COUNTRY...
TO A LITTLE GIRL WHO HASN'T EVEN GONE THROUGH HER RITE OF PASSAGE?
VIOLET ALSO MEANS...

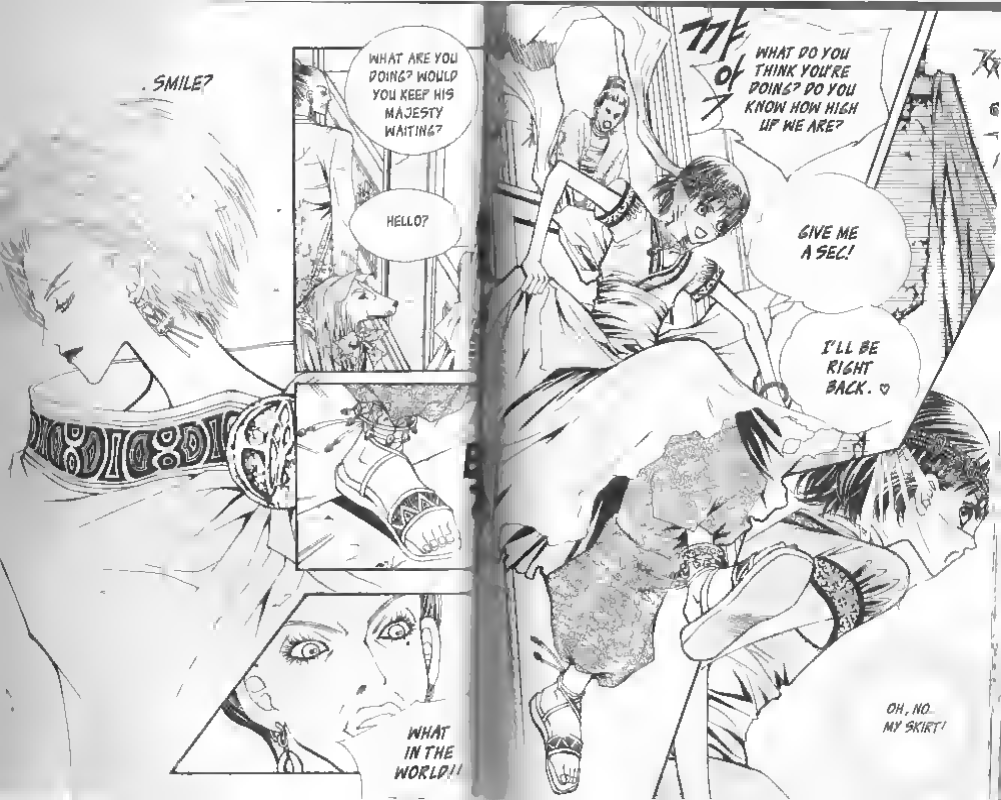
...COURAGE, LITTLE LADY.
WHAT A THRILLING GAMBLE
MY CHOICES ARE AN ANCIENT WIZARD, OVER 200 YEARS OLD
AND A LITTLE GIRL STILL SMELLING OF MOTHER'S MILK
WHO SHALL I CHOOSE?

SO .. AFTER CENTURIES UPON CENTURIES ..
IS THIS COUNTRY TO COME TO AN END DURING MY REIGN?
하
하
하
하
.. ZODE?
WOOF
WHAT IS THAT AROUND YOUR NECK? IT LOOKS LIKE A BOW TO ME!


A BOW, HA!!
AND A RAINBOW-COLORED ONE AT THAT!
THEY MAKE IT SO I CAN'T CHEW IT OFF
WERE THE EMPEROR'S ATTENDANTS THAT PRETTY? YOU LET THEM PUT A BOW ON YOU YOU NEVER LET ME PUT A BOW ON YOU
COULD THEY HAVE THOUGHT THAT YOU WERE A FEMALE?
SILENCE!
THE PALACE IS A SACRED PLACE. NO LOUD GUFFAWING, PLEASE
ONE THING YOU NEED TO REMEMBER IS THAT YOU'RE NOT TO LIFT YOUR HEAD BEFORE HIS MAJESTY UNLESS YOU'RE GIVEN EXPLICIT PERMISSION
EVEN IF YOU'RE GIVEN SUCH PERMISSION, YOU'RE NEVER TO MEET HIS GAZE

WHY MAKE IT SO COMPLICATED? HE WANTS TO SEE ME, SO I'LL GO AND SEE HIM, THAT'S ALL
YOU DIDN'T EVEN EXPLAIN TO ME WHY I HAVE TO MEET THE GUY IN THE FIRST PLACE
DID YOU JUST CALL HIS MAJESTY A "GUY"?
UM DID I?
HUH?

UH THAT MAN OVER THERE..?
HE'S TURNING AROUND
WA-WAIT! DID HE JUST

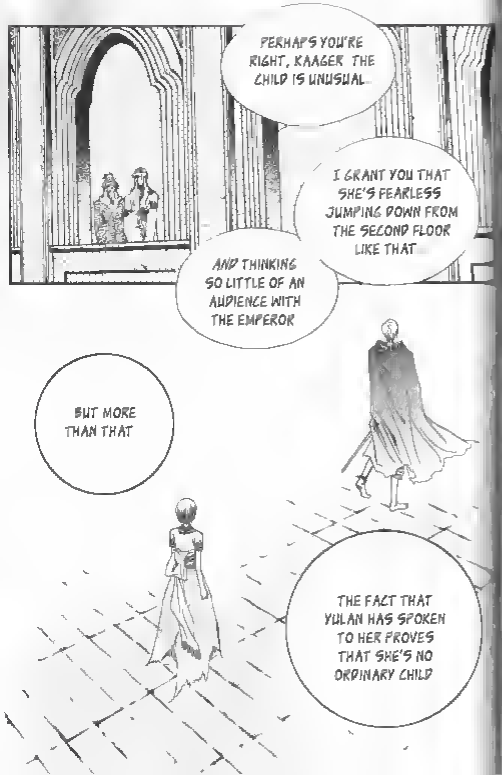

. SMILE?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WOULD YOU KEEP HIS MAJESTY WAITING?
HELLO?
WHAT IN THE WORLD!!
77 of
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING? DO YOU KNOW HOW HIGH UP WE ARE?
GIVE ME A SEC!
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK. ♡
OH, NO. MY SKIRT!

WELL, IT DIDN'T SUIT ME ANYWAY!
OH, THIS IS A NIGHTMARE
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
THAT NEARLY KILLED ME!
H-HEY... I HAVE A QUESTION TO ASK
DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID TO ME WHEN YOU FOUGHT THE DEMON IN THE SQUARE?
YOU SAID, "GET DOWN"
RIGHT? AM I RIGHT?

DID I UNDERSTAND YOU CORRECTLY?!
NO
WHAT?
IF YOU HAD PROPERLY UNDERSTOOD WHAT I SAID CORRECTLY, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE JUST STOOD THERE LIKE SOME IDIOT
YOU IGNORED MY WARNING AND BREATHED IN ALL THAT POISON IN THE AIR...
WHAT?
THE EMPEROR IS AN IMPATIENT MAN
YOU'D BETTER HURRY
ONE MORE THING... IF I WERE YOU, I WOULDN'T ENTER HIS PRESENCE LOOKING LIKE THAT
HEY, WAIT! HAVE WE MET BEFORE?

MAYBE A LONG, LONG TIME AGO?
WHAT THE HECK AM I SAYING? WHAT PUT THAT IDEA INTO MY HEAD ALL OF A SUDDEN?
I JUST HAVE A FEELING ABOUT HIM
HE HAS SOMETHING TO TELL ME, I'M SURE!
YU-LAN!
My name is Yulan
OH, IT'S THAT LANGUAGE AGAIN!


PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT, KAAGER. THE CHILD IS UNUSUAL.
I GRANT YOU THAT SHE'S FEARLESS JUMPING DOWN FROM THE SECOND FLOOR LIKE THAT.
AND THINKING SO LITTLE OF AN AUDIENCE WITH THE EMPEROR
BUT MORE THAN THAT
THE FACT THAT YULAN HAS SPOKEN TO HER PROVES THAT SHE'S NO ORDINARY CHILD

SECURITY'S PRETTY TIGHT.
I SUPPOSE WE CAN'T JUST WALK THROUGH THE FRONT GATE, BEING INVITED AND ALL.
THE PROBLEM IS, EVEN IF WE GET SAFELY INSIDE THE TEMPLE...
...WE HAVE NO IDEA WHERE IT IS HIDDEN.

THE FORCE FIELD AROUND THE TEMPLE MAKES TRACKING THE PRECISE LOCATION DIFFICULT
THEN HOW ABOUT STARTING THERE?
I MEAN, FROM THE TOP..

T THE--?!
S BEEN
KING AT
FOR 30
NUTES!
WHO CARES IF I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO LOOK HIM IN THE EYE?
THERE'S NO WAY I'M LETTING HIM STARE ME DOWN
HIS FACE--HE'S ABSOLUTELY EXPRESSIONLESS
IN FACT, EVERYONE HERE'S LIKE THAT
...my name is Yoon.

YULAN? WHAT DOES THAT NAME MEAN?
YEP, I HAVE MUCH MORE TO LEARN.
SO, I HEAR YOU UNDERSTAND THE LANGUAGE OF ANIMALS
BUT DOES YOUR TALENT APPLY ONLY TO LOWLY BEASTS?
WHAT?
WHAT GOOD IS IT THAT YOU CAN SPEAK THE LANGUAGE OF ANIMALS?
HOW DOES THAT SERVE THE COUNTRY?
WHAT IS E TALKING ABOUT?
NG IT TO ME.
푸드
푸드
!
TELL ME WHAT THIS BIRD IS SAYING.

IT MUST BE COMPLAINING OF HUNGER
I HAVEN'T FED IT FOR THREE DAYS

NO NEED FOR YOU TO TRANSLATE THAT I'M SURE EVERYONE HERE IS CAPABLE OF UNDERSTANDING
A DEATH CRY...
SO, ARE WE TO CAST OUR LOT WITH THIS CHILD WHOSE SO-CALLED TALENT...
...IS NO MORE REAL THAN A STREET GYPSY'S?
I WOULD PREFER THAT WE TAKE OUR CHANCES WITH THE OLD WIZARD

YOU'LL BE LONELY
NOW THERE'S NO ONE LEFT
AT YOUR SIDE
THIS BIRD... WAS THE LAST OF THOSE
WHO REALLY LOVED YOU
DO YOU REALLY THINK SHE WAS WEAK JUST BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T FEED HER FOR THREE DAYS?
ABSOLUTELY NOT! IT WAS THE SORROW OF SEEING YOU FOR THOSE THREE DAYS THAT KILLED HER
BUT YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING...
THERE'S NO ROMANCE IN DYING, EVEN AT THE EMPEROR'S HANDS
THERE WAS ONLY THE PAIN OF...
...STARVATION

... I CAN'T HELP BEING ANXIOUS ABOUT HER
GREAT AND HONORABLE LORD YULAN, IT'S BEEN 15 YEARS
AND SHE TURNED 15 THIS YEAR. AS YOU MUST BE AWARE
WILL YOU HELP HER?
I HAVE FAITH THAT YOU WILL, EVEN IF I DON'T ASK IT OF YOU
STILL...

ZODE
I LOVE YOU, ZODE
"NOW THERE'S NO ONE LEFT AT YOUR SIDE."
"THIS BIRD WAS THE LAST OF THOSE WHO REALLY LOVED YOU."

GRANDPA!
HA HA HA! THAT TROUBLEMAKER GRANDDAUGHTER OF MINE HAS BECOME A LADY ONLY HALF A DA
HUH?
A TRIP?
WHAT TRIP? WHO'S GOING ON A TRIP?
HA HA HA! SLOW DOWN.
YOU'LL CHOKE ON ALL THAT FOOD

OH, I ALMOST FORGOT! I MEANT TO ASK YOU WHY WE'RE HERE.
DO YOU KNOW THE EMPEROR PERSONALLY?
IT'S NOT A VERY INTERESTING STORY AND I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU HATE BEING BORED
BORED! YOU MUST HAVE NOTICED THAT THE EMPEROR DOESN'T HAVE A DROP OF HUMOR IN HIS BLOOD.
WELL, I CAN'T SAY THAT I DON'T, HA HA HA
I WATCHED HIM GROW UP JUST AS I WATCHED YOU GROW UP, INEZ.
REALLY?! DOESN'T THAT MAKE THE TWO OF YOU REALLY CLOSE?
DID YOU CO TO THE CITY SEE HIM?
AND WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME ALL THIS BEFORE?
HMM, YOU DIDN'T DEVELOP ANY LIKING FOR HIM, I SEE.
THAT'S RIGHT! I DON'T EVER WANT TO SEE HIS FACE AGAIN.
I WANT TO GET OUT OF THIS PLACE!

IT WAS ONLY NATURAL THAT I COULDN'T READ HIS FACIAL EXPRESSIONS
HE'S CLOSED OFF HIS HEART
FROM THE BEGINNING THE EMPEROR HAD NO CHOICE
FATE HAD CHOSEN HER ALREADY
HE JUST DIDN'T WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE EMPEROR'S POWER MIGHT BE WEAKER THAN A LITTLE GIRL'S POWERS OF PERCEPTION
BUT HE HAS NO MORE TIME TO WASTE

THIS IS WHAT THE EMPEROR COMMANDS
CARRY IT OUT TONIGHT

INEZ
INEZ!
A WOLF!
A MONSTER WOLF!

키익
까르르
INEZ...
INEZ, NO!!
INEZ!!

MOMMY!
MOMMY
MOMMY
MOMMY!
ZODE, STOP!
FAITHFUL ZODE, YOU'VE ALREADY ABSORBED TOO MUCH POISON FROM INEZ'S BODY
YOUR OWN CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE.

THERE'S STILL SOME POISON WITHIN HER
YOU CAN'T TAKE ALL OF IT AWAY
BUT DON'T WORRY SHE'LL BE FINE
I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU WANT TO COMFORT HER, ZODE.
SHE'S CLEVER AND STRONG, STRONGER THAN WE KNOW.
YOU ASKED ME ONCE
WHY INEZ HAD TO BE TH CHOSEN ONE
I CAN'T GIVE YOU A SATISFACTORY ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION
BUT A WISE MAN ONCE SAID
"ALL OF US HAVE DIFFERENT FATES BUT OUR ENDS WILL BE THE SAME...
YET SOMETIMES A SPECIAL DESTINY AWAITS ONE OF US "
LONG AGO, THIS LAND WAS SHARED BY MANY RACES OTHER THAN THE HUMAN ONE
COEXISTENCE

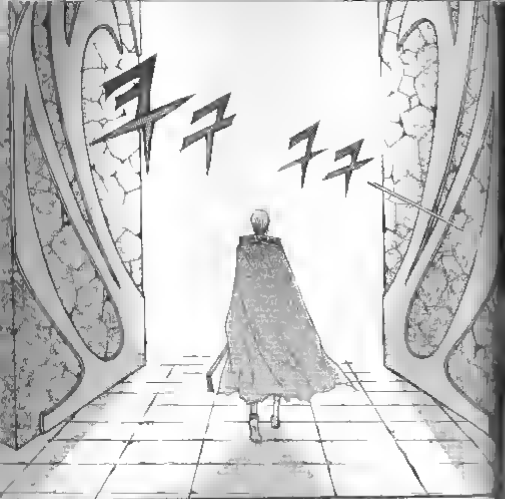
THERE WERE SOME RACES WHO DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THAT CONCEPT
DRIVEN BY THE DESIRE TO DOMINATE, THEY ABANDONED THE WORD "COEXIST"...
AND INVENTED WHAT WE NOW CALL "WAR"
SO BEGAN THE FIRST WAR AGAINST THE ANCIENT RACE OF DRAGONS

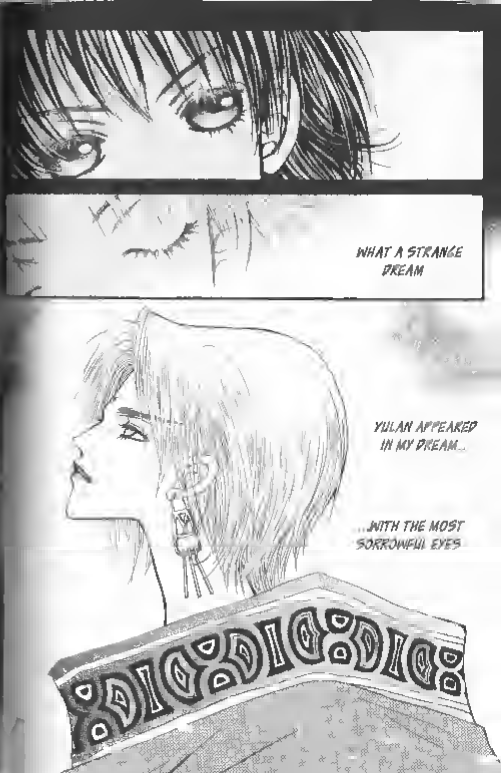
THAT WAS THE
EGINNING
OF WHAT WE NOW
REMEMBER AS THE WAR
OF BLACK BLOOD

THIS WON'T BE AS EASY AS I THOUGHT
THE TEMPLE'S INTERIOR IS LIKE A MAZE
BUT THE STRANGE THING IS THAT THE CLOSER WE GET TO THE HEART OF THE STRUCTURE THE LIGHTER THE SECURITY GETS
COULD WE HAVE MADE A MISTAKE?
THE MAZE ITSELF IS A GREAT METHOD OF SECURITY

EVEN THE GUARDS THEMSELVES DON'T SEEM TO KNOW THE FULL LAYOUT OF THIS PLACE
WHAT WORRIES ME IS WHETHER WE CAN TRUST OUR OWN SENSE OF DIRECTION
YOU MEAN WE COULD ACTUALLY BE GOING DOWN WHEN WE THINK WE'RE HEADING UP?
COULD THIS TEMPLE DO THAT? CREATE AN ILLUSION OF THAT MAGNITUDE?
THIS MAZE IS BEYOND THE KEN OF MORTALS ITS SPACE IS WARPED BY GREAT POWER
EVEN SO, WE CAN'T BE STANDING AROUND ADMIRING THE INTRICACY OF ITS DESIGN...

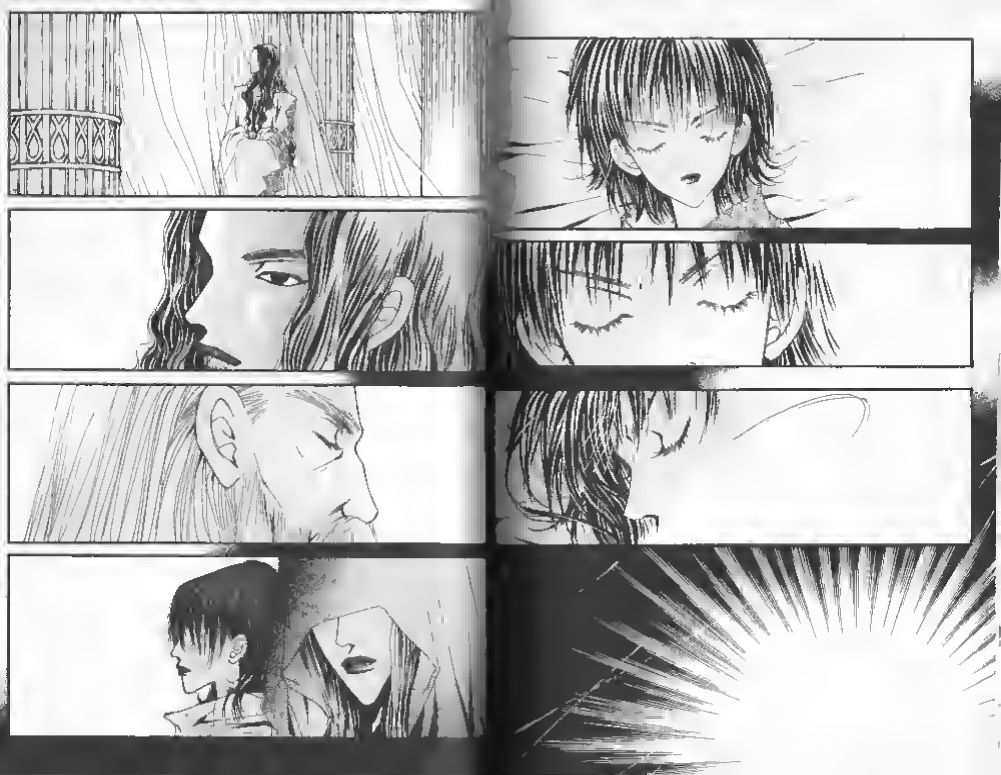
WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO RELY ON OUR INTUITION!
사라.




WHAT A STRANGE DREAM
YULAN APPEARED IN MY DREAM...
...WITH THE MOST SORROWFUL EYES

ZODE! STAY BY INEZ'S SIDE
IS TODAY TO BE THE DAY ..?

IT'S STRANGE
ALL OF A SUDDEN, EVERYTHING HAS GONE QUIET...



THE WAR OF BLACK BLOOD
IS NOT OVER YET.

IT'S GONE
I DON'T FEEL ITS PRESENCE ANYMORE
WHAT THE HELL--
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
HOW CAN ITS FORCE JUST DISAPPEAR?
YOU MUST HAVE MADE A MISTAKE.
ALL THIS WANDERING ABOUT THE MAZE HAS DULLED YOUR PERCEPTIONS, THAT'S ALL.
WE HAVE A MISSION TO CARRY OUT HERE..
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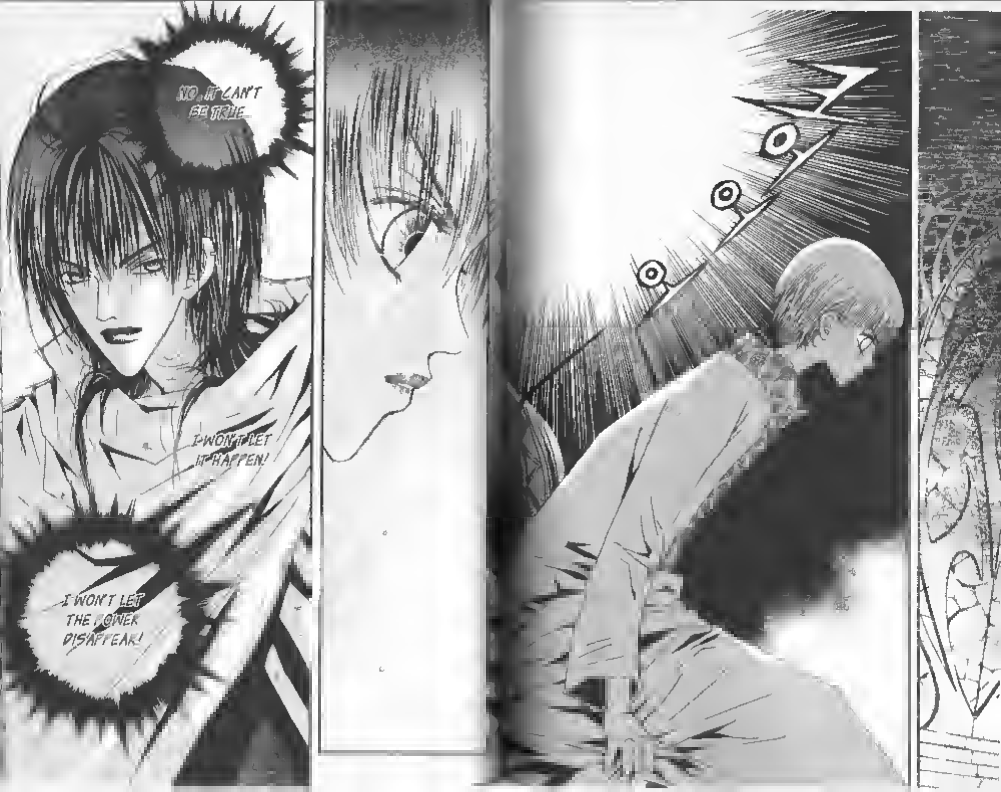
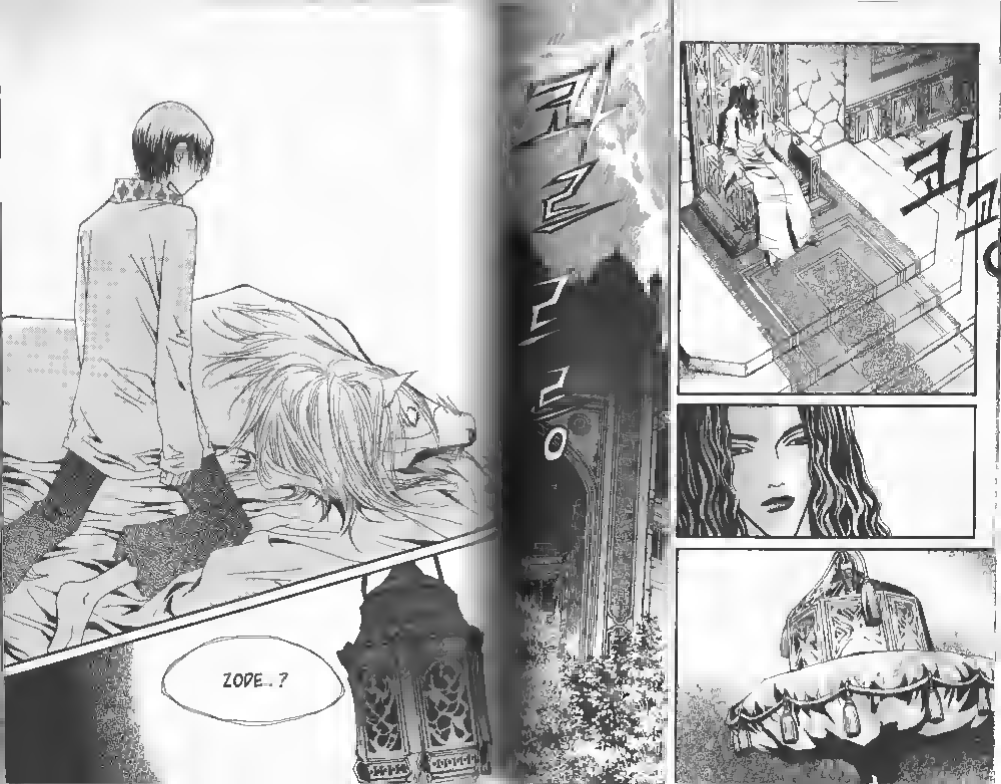

NO, IT CAN'T BE TRUE
I WON'T LET IT HAPPEN!
I WON'T LET THE LOWER DISAPPEAR!

NO, INEZ
I CAN'T BEAR TO SEE YOUR TEARS
DON'T BE SAD
STOP.
DON'T BE SAD...
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT THERE'S NO REASON FOR YOU TO FEEL GUILTY...
SOMEDAY HIS SORROW WILL END, TOO

SO DRY
YOUR EYES
MAY THESE TEARS THAT I DRINK
...BE THE VERY LAST...
YOU EVER SHED


ZODE..?

HOW FASCINATING WHO WOULD BELIEVE THAT THE FATE OF THE EMPIRE ...
DEPENDS ON THIS LITTLE OBJECT?
WELL I SUPPOSE I SHOULDN'T JUDGE IT BY ITS SIZE IT'S MORE A QUESTION OF ITS POWER
KAAGER, IT'S YOUR TURN
SO, IS THE LITTLE LADY READY TO BECOME A HEROINE?
YOU, MORE THAN ANYONE, ARE FULLY AWAKE
...THAT DRAGON-HUNTING IS NO PICNIC.

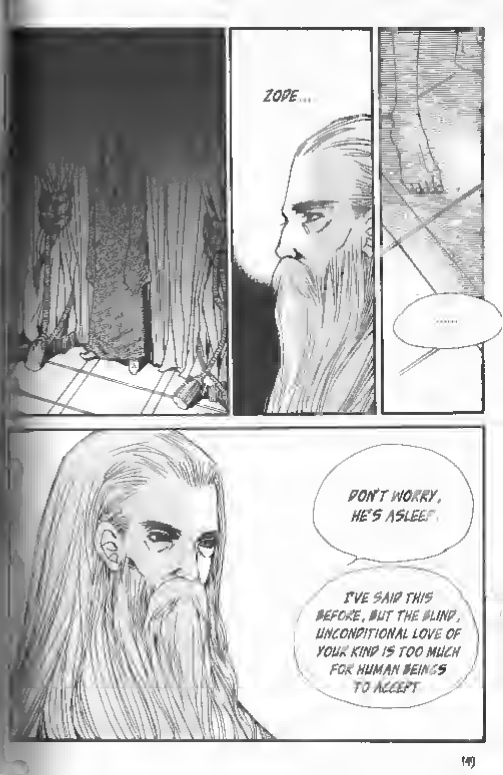
OH, NO. LET ME TAKE THAT BACK. "HUNTING" MAY NOT BE THE APPROPRIATE WORD.
LET ME REPHRASE THE QUESTION, KAAGER.
IS THE BAIT WHO WILL LURE THE DRAGON HERE READY FOR HER JOURNEY?

ZODE... GET UP PLEASE!
DON'T PLAY GAMES WITH ME! GET UP!
ZODE...
ZODE!
ZODE, I WANT MY MOMMY
IT'S RIDICULOUS, RIGHT? I HARDLY REMEMBER HER FACE
BUT I REMEMBER THE FEEL OF HER ARMS AROUND ME.

BEING HELD BY HER FELT COZY LIKE THIS
SHE WAS WARM AND SOFT LIKE YOU
ZODE, YOU LOVE ME, RIGHT?
THEN PROMISE ME THAT YOU'LL ALWAYS BE BY MY SIDE

PROMISE ME, ZODE_
PROMISE ME _
GRANDPA SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH ZODE
HE WON'T OPEN HIS EYES NO MATTER HOW HARD I SHAKE HIM
HE NEVER USED TO SLEEP THIS MUCH
HEY COME ON, WAKE UP

WHEN I GET YOU UP, I'M GOING TO TIE A RIBBON AROUND YOUR NECK...
...AND MAKE THE BOW REALLY TIGHT!


ZOPE...
.....
DON'T WORRY, HE'S ASLEEP.
I'VE SAID THIS BEFORE, BUT THE BLIND, UNCONDITIONAL LOVE OF YOUR KIND IS TOO MUCH FOR HUMAN BEINGS TO ACCEPT

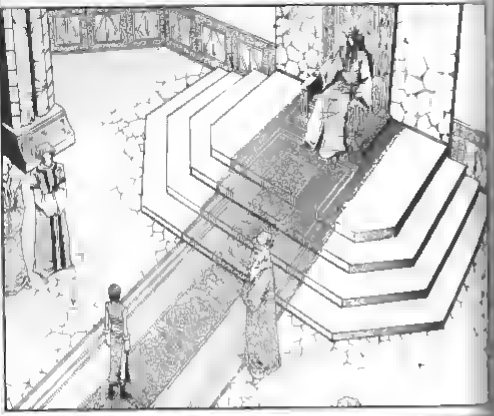
IT'S NATURAL TO WANT TO EASE A LOVED ONE'S PAIN...
...BUT YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I THAT INEZ IS NO ORDINARY HUMAN BEING
ESPECIALLY HER TEARS...
I HAVE HEARD THAT THE HIGHEST EXPRESSION OF LOVE AMONG YOUR RACE IS TO SIP THE TEARS OF ANOTHER
REGRETTABLY, HER TEARS ARE POISON TO YOU
WAS IT SO PAINFUL TO WATCH HER SUFFER?
DIDN'T YOU KNOW THAT ZOPE'S VERY PRESENCE WAS A COMFORT TO INEZ?
YET YOU THREW AWAY THAT PHYSICAL FORM
YOU MUST HAVE KNOWN HOW INEZ WOULD SUFFER AFTER LOSING ZOPE
KNOWING THAT, WHY DID YOU DO THAT?

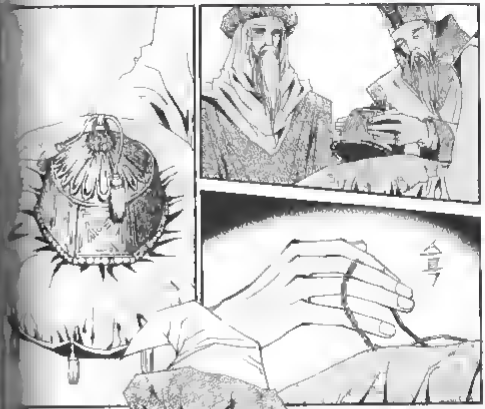
YOU APPEARED RIGHT AFTER INEZ CAME TO ME, ZOPE
...ZEYER.
NO, NOT ZOPE NOW I'LL HAVE TO CALL YOU BY YOUR REAL NAME...
ZEYER, ARE YOU WITHHOLDING SOME SECRET ABOUT INEZ?
ZOPE...
ZOPE...
ZOPE

DON'T BE SAD
I'LL NEVER BREAK MY
PROMISE

THAT VOW HAS ALWAYS
BEEN DEARER TO ME THAN
MY OWN LIFE —

MY BELOVED MISTRESS





THE HEART'S BLOOD IS THE KEY TO YOUR MISSION. THIS PENDANT WILL LURE THE DRAGON.

YOU MUST GUARD IT WITH YOUR LIFE
NEVER FORGET THE REASON YOU WERE CHOSEN FOR THIS MISSION
BECAUSE YOU CAN SPEAK THE ANCIENT LANGUAGE OF DRAGONS
YOUR ABILITY IS WEAK AND, AS YET, UNPOLISHED
SO YOU MUST REMEMBER THAT THE HEART'S BLOOD IS NOT THE ONLY WAY TO CONTROL THE DRAGON

YULAN WILL LEAD THE WAY AND PROTECT YOU
FINALLY, I COMMAND ALL OF YOU GATHERED HERE
TO KEEP NO RECORD OF THE RITE THAT TAKES PLACE TODAY
ONLY THE ONE WHO BEARS THE EMPEROR'S SEAL CAN CHRONICLE HISTORY ONLY HE CAN AUTHORIZE REMEMBRANCE

O, DESTINED ONE...
...THE EMPEROR AND HIS PEOPLE WILL AWAIT YOUR RETURN

ZODE...

NO! IT'S NOT TRUE!
ZODE'S NOT DEAD. HE'S ONLY ASLEEP.
HE'S NOT DEAD, I TELL YOU!
GRANDPA, TELL THESE PEOPLE TO GO! THEY'RE TRYING TO TAKE ZODE AWAY.
TELL THEM, GRANDPA. TELL THEM ZODE'S NOT DEAD!
GRANDPA!

ZODE
POOR ZODE
DO YOU WANT TO KNOW THE REASON?
THE REASON HE DIED?

BUT ISN'T THERE SOMETHING ELSE THAT YOU'RE EVEN MORE CURIOUS ABOUT?
YOU REMEMBER THE MOMENT OF YOUR MOTHER'S DEATH I'M SURE
PERHAPS YOU TRIED TO WALL OFF THAT MEMORY, BUT YOU COULDN'T ERASE IT
INEZ, NO!

MY... BABY
MY... LOVELY BABY...
끽
끽
!
MOMMY
Mommy?

What tortured you most was not your mother's death, but the feeling that it was you who had killed the demon, wasn't it?
Wasn't it?
The lingering doubt you couldn't dispel
The nagging question of who you really are

Do you want to know?
The truth—who you are and why you were born with that power
If you really want to know...
...then fulfill the emperor's command

After all, it is your destiny. You can resist, but you can't reject it
That is, not if you want answers to the questions about Zode's death and your true identity
Zode...this is the only gift I have to give you.

I'LL LEAVE THIS WITH YOU. BUT ONLY FOR NOW
TRY NOT TO MISS ME TOO MUCH OKAY? I'LL BE BACK SOON
YOU'VE BROKEN YOUR PROMISE BUT I'LL KEEP MINE
WHEN I COME BACK, I'LL NEVER LEAVE YOUR SIDE AGAIN...
ZODE
IT'S BEEN THREE DAYS SINCE WE LOST TRACK OF IT
CAN IT REALLY BE GONE?
DOES THIS MEAN THAT IT WASN'T REALLY IMMORTAL?
I CAN SENSE IT!

WHAT?
AS IF ITS CASING HAD CHANGED
ONE THING'S CERTAIN... IT'S VERY CLOSE TO US
I KNEW IT WASN'T DEAD!!
STRANGE
ITS POWER IS STILL THERE BUT IT FEELS SOMEHOW DIFFERENT

SOS
SOS
HUH?
SOS!
WHAT DO I DO?
WHAT DO I DO?

PLEASE, MISS .. I'M SO SORRY TO BOTHER YOU BUT COULD YOU HELP ME? PLEASE?
I'VE DROPPED SOMETHING REALLY IMPORTANT TO ME IN THE LAKE..
...BUT I'M SCARED OF THE WATER..
HUH?
IT WAS MY MOTHER'S...

YOU MUST BE SAD TO HAVE LOST SOMETHING SO PRECIOUS.
I KNOW WHAT IT FEELS LIKE. I JUST LEFT SOMETHING OF MY MOTHER'S WITH MY BEST FRIEND.
WHERE DID YOU DROP IT? HERE? WHAT WAS IT?
YOU KNOW HOW HARD IT IS TO FIND SOMETHING THAT SMALL?
A BRACELET
REALLY? WHAT A COINCIDENCE! MINE WAS A BRACELET TOO.
WELL, I MUST HELP YOU NOW
YOU'RE LUCKY IT WASN'T A RING
HUH?
GOOD. IT'S NOT TOO DEEP
I'M NOT A VERY GOOD SWIMMER, YOU SEE
WHAT?

I FOUND IT!
IS THIS YOUR BRACE--

INEZ, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
RUN!!

HAH!
HAH!
HAH!
하
하
하

YOU!
IF YOU CAN'T FIGHT, YOU'D BETTER BE ABLE TO RUN
...SLOWPOKES LIKE YOU HAVE NO DEFENSE AGAINS BEING LOOPED UP BY MONSTERS

YOU'D BETTER CHECK YOUR PANTS
AN ELFIN SNOB!?
MAKE SURE YOU DIDN'T PEE YOUR PANTS
WHA-WHAT?
PEE MY PANTS?
TRY NOT TO SHAME THE MALE SPECIES IN FRONT OF YOUR GIRLFRIEND FROM NOW ON, OKAY?
MALE SPECIES?!
GIRLFRIEND...?
UH...THANKS!
YOU DID...
...SAVE MY LIFE
READ THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT SHE SAYS
HE'S SCARY!

IF WE EVER RUN INTO EACH OTHER AGAIN, SHOW YOUR GRATITUDE WITH MONEY.
I'LL LET YOU OFF CHEAP TODAY SINCE YOU LOOK LIKE A BEGGAR, MORE OR LESS.
WHY? WHY DOES HE BOTHER ME SO MUCH?
WE DID SAVE HIS LIFE, RIGHT?
UMM, I'M SO SORRY. IT'S MY FAULT.
NO, DON'T WORRY. IT WAS JUST BAD LUCK, THAT'S ALL.
I'M GETTING USED TO THIS, ACTUALLY. I MEAN, MONSTERS POPPING UP OUT OF NOWHERE.
THERE. I MADE A REAL TIGHT KNOT. YOU WON'T LOSE IT AGAIN.
MAKE SURE YOU TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT. OTHERWISE, YOUR MOTHER MIGHT FEEL SAD.
DON'T YOU THINK SO?
BYE, BYE! I HAVE TO BE ON MY WAY. MY GRANDPA'S WAITING FOR ME TO GET BACK.
TAKE CARE, OKAY?

FROM NOW ON, YOU'RE FORBIDDEN TO VENTURE OUT ALONE
YOU HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT WHAT YOU WEAR AROUND YOUR NECK IS NO MERE ACCESSORY
I KNOW. YOU'RE HERE TO PROTECT THE HEART'S BLOOD, NOT ME
THANKS, ANYWAY, FOR LETTING ME BE BY MYSELF TODAY

IT MUST BE THE PENDANT
THE BOY LOOKED ORDINARY ENOUGH
THIS IS COMPLETELY UNEXPECTED! THE HEART'S BLOOD DIDN'T EVEN HAVE THE POWER TO PROTECT ITSELF AGAINST SUCH A WEAK MONSTER
I'M SURPRISED TOO BUT OUR ONLY LEAD RIGHT NOW
IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THAT PENDANT CONTAINS THE TRANSFORMED POWER OF A DRAGON!

TAKE IT IT WILL RESTORE THE ENERGY YOU EXPENDED DRAWING THE MONSTER TO THE SURFACE
THANK YOU
WE WILL REQUIRE YOUR HELP AGAIN

GRANDPA, THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS I WANT TO ASK YOU.
BUT I'LL WAIT
PROMISE ME THAT YOU'LL TELL ME EVERYTHING
WHEN I COME BACK
YES, INEZ. I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING I KNOW
I LOVE YOU, GRANDPA

TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOURSELF WHILE I'M GONE!
I LOVE YOU, INEZ
푸르

I'LL JUMP RIGHT IN AND FACE IT STRAIGHT ON
THE PROBLEM WON'T DISAPPEAR EVEN IF I RUN
WHETHER OR NOT I MANAGE TO FIND THE ANSWERS I'M LOOKING FOR...
I HAVE TO TRY

THIS IS THE PATH I MUST FOLLOW
WHAT THE HECK ARE THESE CRITTERS?

THE QUEST CONTINUES IN

ARCANA

VOLUME 2

THE JOURNEY BEGINS WHEN IHEZ AND YULAH LEAVE THE WALLS OF THE CITY AND VENTURE INTO UNCHARTED TERRITORY. SOON THEY ENCOUNTER THE NYAMAS, STRANGE BUT HARMLESS CREATURES KNOWN FOR THEIR BOUNDLESS CURIOSITY. LATER, THE MYSTERIOUS KYRETTE MAKES HIMSELF KNOWN TO THE PAIR OF WARY TRAVELERS, ELICITING MIXED REACTIONS. AND AFTER AN ELFIN HALF-BREED ENLISTS THE AID OF THE KIND-HEARTED IHEZ, THE MISSION MIGHT JUST BE OVER BEFORE IT BEGINS!